

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. I do not personally know of any organized group opposing the Communists in Czechoslovakia. In Zilina and in the village of Horny Vadičov there were persistent rumors among the populace that in July and August 1951, a strong troop detachment had surrounded the territory around Sucany /4906N-1900E/, Turany /4907N-1903E/, and Kralovany /4909N-1906E/ to hunt down partisans, mostly farmers, engaged in a revolt against the Communist policy of depriving farmers of their land and forcing them to join the Cooperative Farmers' Union (JED - Jednota Zemedelskeho Druzstva) for which they would have to work for wages that were not even sufficient to provide food and clothing. I attempted to learn the truth of these rumors but none of my civilian friends [redacted] [redacted] had any factual information concerning the rumors when I

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-2-

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2. The farm group in Czechoslovakia is very antagonistic toward the present regime. As I was raised in a small farm village, I think I can understand the feelings of the farmers. The farmer feels that an industrial worker can switch from one factory to another, from one tool of production to another, rather easily. His lathe or drill would never be as close to his heart as a piece of native ground to that of a peasant. Frequently, the same farm would be handed down from one generation to another as the most cherished inheritance. For many centuries the farmer's subsistence, folklore, and even his religion were closely associated with his inherited patch of land. And now, the Communist regime has deprived him of that land.
3. In 1949 and 1950 the Communists lured many farmers into the Farmers' Cooperative Union with glowing promises of prosperity within one year. The harsh reality was that under the present regime the peasant is nothing but a hired state laborer shamefully underpaid and pitilessly exploited. Individualistic in nature, conservative as his soil, the farmer for a while lost his bearings. But potentially, as well as quantitatively, he is, and will continue to be, the strongest anti-Communist element of the country. Although helpless to oppose openly the Communists in Czechoslovakia, the farmers did not lose their courage. They resorted to fighting the enemy with the only weapon left in their possession, ie, scornful jokes which keep their spirit of discontent always alive. For example, the farmers made a standing joke of JZD. Using the initials designating the Cooperative Farmers' Union, they wittingly describe the injustice and bureaucracy of this Communist institution by interpreting the official abbreviation in the following manner:

JZD - Jedni Zadarmo Delaji - Some work for free, then
Reversing the initials, they say:
DZJ - Druzí Zadarmo Jedi - Others eat for free.

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